

# The Pocahontas Times.

If thou would'st read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from being sad and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills. —Longfellow.

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Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia December 31, 1903.

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Office in the Bank of Marlinton Building.

DR. O. J. CAMPBELL,

Dentist.

MONTEREY, VA.

Will visit Pocahontas county at least twice a year. The exact date of his visit will appear in this paper.

DR. ERNEST B. HILL,

DENTIST.

Marlinton and Academy, W. Va.

Graduate University of Maryland. Dentistry practiced in all its branches.

Office in Bank of Marlinton building.

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G. W. DUNCAN,

Practical Land Surveyor.

Buckeye, W. Va.

All calls by phone and mail promptly answered.

## ODDS AND ENDS

### Christmas Cheer

Christmas is a very blue day to most grown people. It drives many to drink too much and eat too much and they feel a little spurious joy perhaps which hits them like a thousand bricks in a few hours by the clock.

Their reminiscences are then apt to be dark as they chew the bitter end of reflection. Grown people do not believe in Santa Claus or any other delightfully wonderful thing that would make them better and happier. They are too apt to remember that they are older and poorer and that during the past year they have seen much trouble and have stood by the grave of many a hope. It may be that after a time we may anchor in the placid waters of old age and once more enjoy the anniversaries as they come around.

But now we are too prone to dwell on something like this:

"Our seasons have no fixed returns.

Without our will they come and go.

At noon our sudden summer burns.

At evening all is snow.

But each year brings less summer cheer.

Crimps more our ineffectual spring.

And something earlier every year.

Our summer birds take wing.

THE MODERN ILLUSTRATOR.

The reader who follows the literature of the day will be impressed after a time in the discrepancies existing so often between the text and the illustration.

We have taken note of this carelessness for years. The novelist in some obscure fence corner of his tale has casually mentioned that the hero has a mustache.

The illustrator fails to see this allegation and he depicts the man smoothshaven.

Another artless tale in killing time at some way station describes the gentleman's hat as a modern plug. This having escaped the eagle eye of the illustrator, he appears with a straw hat.

Nothing is more common than the failure of the illustration to see in some small particular with the story and which would lead the jury to believe that the whole thing is a fabrication.

Then again the novelist describes the heroine as a young woman of unusual attractions, but the picture man either has strange tastes for beauty or is unable to draw a pretty woman. If we go by the text she is all our fancy paints her, and if by the picture she is a night mare.

A critic has discovered some strange things about the pictures that Charles Dana Gibson draws. By actual measurements his American beauties have legs at least a foot too long and have no stomach what ever. On inspection of these statuesque beauties it will be found that the criticism is just.

TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

It is told for the truth that a certain citizen of Greenbrier county in an experience meeting told the following as one of the things to be thankful for:

"I heard a widow woman having some cattle worth at least a hundred dollars and I got on my horse and rode up the valley to her house and bought them for fifty dollars."

VERY SICK.

During Christmas we were reminded of a tale that has been knocking around this country for the last twenty years:

An old colored man came to a doctor for treatment. He described his symptoms: "Lat' night I vomit, and vomit, and vomit, and finally I had to get up outen my bed and puke."

A donation party made up by the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church paid Rev. G. it shall appear, that any elector W. Nickell a visit on Christmas has voted more than once to receive and when the smoke had done the votes of such elector to

clear away Pastor Nickell was one.

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## THE ELECTION OF 1832.

### ANDREW JACKSON CARRIES

POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

A Partial List of the Democratic and Whig Voters

At the Court house is a record of the election held in this county for President of the United States. The election was vivacious. Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, with Martin VanBuren, headed one ticket; and Andrew Jackson and Philip P. Barbour, another; and Henry Clay, with John Sergeant, of Pennsylvania, the head of the Whig ticket.

Andrew Jackson carried the county triumphantly. There were three voting places.

At the residence of Geo. W. Althare—30 votes were cast for Jackson; 33 votes for Henry Clay.

At the Court-house—53 for Jackson; 23 for Clay.

At James N. Gillespie's house—50 votes for Jackson; 10 for Clay.

Totals—163 for Jackson; 68 for Clay.

The Commissioners for the County, probably the canvassing board, seemed to have certified under what was probably a contest the following result:

For the 22 electors for Jackson and Van Buren, 145 votes.

For the 22 electors for Clay and Sergeant, 45 votes.

For the 22 electors for Jackson and Barbour, none were certified.

From the precinct at Gillespie's, a "separate" election was held and a return was made of this separate election of 41 votes for Jackson and 8 votes for Clay.

Among the Democratic voters we see Thomas Casebolt, Richard Hill, Geo. Hill, Wm. Kennison, Wm. McCoy, David Joycox, Robert Burnside, Abraham Seybert, Robert R. a, David L. Ruckman, John Weirford, Geo. W. Althare, William Blair, John McNeel, John Moffett, Daniel Friel, Eli McCarty, Ezekiel Townsend, Henry Harper, Christopher Herold, Daniel Glopchin, A. W. Rinder, Wm. Cackley, David Gibson, Jacob Nottingham, John Bruffey, Peter Buzzard, Henry Grimes, Samuel M. Gay, McNeel Cleek, Andrew Yeager, James Dever, Joshua Burner, Robert Warwick, Jacob G. Slavens, Wm. Gam, Moses Arbogast, John Tracy, Robert Reese, Thomas Galford, Sampson Nottingham, Samuel Given, Frederic Phillips, William Lamb, James Gillespie, William May, John Wooddell, Daniel Slayton, James Higgins, Wm. Sharp, Joseph Wolenbarger, Wm. Carpenter, Moses Houchen, Eligh Hudson, Patrick Bruffey.

Among those voting the Whig ticket we notice George Poage, Josiah Beard, James L. uis, Anthony Callison, Nathan Gilliland, Sheldon Clark, Thomas Hill, Sampson L. Matthews, James A. Price, Henry Hoover, Andrew G. Mathews, Paul McNeel, William Young, Lanty Lockridge, Daniel McCarty, James M. Sharp, H. M. Moffett, Robert McCutcheon, Robert Gay, John Ervin, John Bradshaw, Jonathan Griffin, John McElwee, John Smith, William Gibson, Benjamin Tallman, James Cooper.

The names of a good many voters appear upon the poll books as having voted at Huntersville and also at the separate poll taken at Geo. W. Althare's house. These seem to be Whig voters.

On looking up the laws of that day and generation we find in the Acts of the Legislature of Virginia the following provision: "And it shall be the duty of the persons taking any separate poll within five days after the same be closed, to report so taken to the officer conducting the election at the Court-house, whose duty it shall be to compare the

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## Death of an Infant

Poor little thing! thou wast so young, To suffer and to die: Was the cup of life too bitter, Life's hill too steep and high?

That thou didst turn thy head away, On tasting of this cup; And nestle down at foot of hill, Which we are climbing up!

Ah! well, since God hath ordered it, Some little ones to die; For then 'twill seem more like our earth.

The home beyond the sky, Where always with us they shall be, The children of eternity.

A. L. P.

Marlinton, W. Va. Dec. 31, 1903.

THE FOG BELL

In the days of my youth I was teaching school afar from the parental roof. My duties lay in one state and my home in another State full five hundred miles apart the way I traveled back and forth.

Leaving New York harbor at the booming of a cannon the steamer Roanoke or Jamestown, two being on the route, late Saturday afternoon, the shores became more dim until the ship struck out into the farther ocean, and the sun arose and set from the illimitable waves apparently.

If one can view this scene, waters on every side, yourself a little atom on a steamer's deck, and literally but a plank between you and eternity, the incessant peculiar heaving of the wide, wide sea, and the heavens touching the ocean, as it were at the horizon line, I say, if one can look on this sublime scene and not stand awed before the great God and Maker of it all, who holds these waters in the hollow of His hand, I envy not his soul obtuse and worse than heathenish, for the very heathen learn of God thro' Nature.

Once when making the voyage, I was not alone as usual, but accompanied by my father, fortunately, for it was a dangerous sailing-time, and he, never more calm and self-possessed than in the hour of danger helped me to keep down any expression of alarm. A thick mist, then heavy fog settled around the first evening out and by night all was so dense the steamer slackened speed perceptibly and the ominous fog-bell sounded continually; the danger of collision with other craft and imminent wreck. We did not repair to state-rooms that night, but sat quietly in the long saloon where the double hundred foot tables for dining were, and waited thro' the dangerous stress, wishing for the dawn of day which came at last. I could but bless the faithful sleepless Captain of that good ship and the heeding of the fog-bell's clang.

This mortal life we all are living is like a wide, wide sea and dangers are thereon, our barges are frail and may be wrecked. Look we well to the Great Captain of our salvation and heed the danger signals that are provided. The counsels of wise friends, the pulpit admonitions, the startling providences, illness and death; but over all, the soft whispers of God's Holy Spirit to the soul and the Blessed Bible's open page. So sail we to a haven of security and rest.

A. L. P.

Marlinton, W. Va. Dec. 22, 1903.

NOTES.

The following fiduciary accounts are before the undersigned for settlement, viz:

Irene Burgess, Adm'r of John W. Burgess, dec'd.

E. H. Moore, Adm'r of Wallace Moore, dec'd.

Jas. L. Sheets, Guardian of Russia and Lucy Simmons.

John Waugh admn, J. M. Cunningham dec'd with the will annexed.

Give under my hand this 21st day of December, 1903.

J. H. PATTERSON,

Comm'r of acct's for Pocahontas County.

## SELIM THE ALGERINE.

### A Strange Character Who Appeared in Bath in 1759.

From 1360 to 1365 my home was at McDowell, Highland, county, Va., in charge as Home Evangelist of a group of congregations in that Highland county and containing a section of Bath county. During that period I frequently passed a spring of surpassing purity and unending volume, about two miles south of McDowell, known to me as the Vance Spring that being the name of the family living nearest it at the time.

It so happened, while a resident of the vicinity named, that I read a fragmentary sketch of Selim the Algerine, in the New York Observer, one of the last numbers of that renowned journal, that came to me, before postal facilities were interrupted by the war.

One of my very faithful parishioners, the late Mrs. Rebecca Hamilton an aged widow lady whose home was three or more miles farther on from the spring on the lower Bull Pasture.

By invitation I frequently conducted religious services at her house for the convenience of her neighbors, and the benefit of her numerous servants.

During one of my visits to her hospitable home, I told her something of what I had been reading about Selim, and inquired if she had ever heard of such a person before.

It appeared she had, and that her father, a Mr. Graham, a relative of the Rockbridge Grammas, was one of the hunting party that discovered the escaping captive, Algerine, at the Vance Spring, it being the place selected for the hunter's encampment.

The section of Augusta county whence the hunters came on their excursion to the Bull Pasture, is now known as the Deerfield district, on the headstreams of the Big Calf Pasture river. This is the stream bridged by the C. & O. railroad at Goshen, Va. What she heard her father and others tell about the fugitive harmonized substantially with the printed sketch, as to Selim's wretched condition, when the hunters found him in the tree top near the Spring. The tree had fallen during the summer, the leaves had dried on the branches, and it was into this covert, the Algerine had crawled to await the dying hour, he realized as being so very near from the way his strength was failing from the privations he had been suffering for weeks. The more plausible conjectures, as to the time of his being rescued, point to the autumn of 1759.

Samuel Givens is the name of the hunter that first saw the perishing fugitive. At the moment of discovery his impression was that it was some new kind of wild beast, no hunter had seen as yet in this primitive forest. He raised his rifle, took careful aim, and just as he was in the act of pulling the trigger, when he perceived it was a human being. Thereupon he went to him and found a person in a most pitiable condition, being entirely naked; excepting a few rags, bound around his feet and ankles. His body was almost covered with sores and scars from being scratched by thorns and briars, as he was endeavoring to make his unknown and trackless way towards the rising sun. Then too he was manifestly in extremis from hunger and emaciation.

The hunters approached him and kindly spoke to him and he became composed and tried to say something, but his language was different from anything they had ever heard before, Scotch, Irish or English. A Pocahontas D. D., who claims some knowledge of Arabic quotes approvingly a sentiment of a writer, that the Arabic vernacular is the language of the angels. But it did not seem so to the Scotch Irish hunters and so for a time, signs were the only means of communication between

the parties so mutually strange in their speech.

In the course of a few days Selim was resuscitated to such a degree that he could walk a few steps and it was thought he could stand the fatigue of being removed to the settlement. He was mounted on a pack horse along with some of the proceeds of the hunt. The horse was carefully led, and one of the humane hunters walked beside him to hold him in place, and thus Selim was taken to the vicinity of Old Millboro Springs where he was received into the home of Captain John Dickinson, ancestor of the Dickinson relationship of Bath County.

Under Captain Dickinson's care Selim soon recovered his health and vigor and it was not long until he could make himself understood by his newly found hospitable friends. His story was interesting and was heard and repeated as the sensation of the times.

The stranger's name was Selim, a native of Algiers, the son of a wealthy man. He had been sent to Constantinople to be educated in one of the most famous schools of the habitable eastern world.

Upon finishing his course of studies he attempted to return to Algiers but the vessel he had embarked on was captured by a Spanish man-of-war. At that time Spain was allied with France and meeting with a French ship Selim was transferred and taken by the French to New Orleans.

After spending some time in this country, Selim was sent up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to the Shawnee towns and left a prisoner with those Indians. Among the prisoners at the Shawnee towns was a white Virginia woman. From her Selim learned that she came from the sun rise. At Constantinople he had learned enough geography to know that the English had settlements on the eastern shore of the American Continent and his conclusion was the woman in question had come from one of such settlements.

Selim now made up his mind to escape and by constantly moving towards the rising sun, he finally reached the Vance Spring, in what is now Highland County in the perishing plight already described.

Captain Dickinson had Selim go with him to Staunton on a court day, where he attracted marked attention and the people in their curiosity crowded around him, and for a time Selim seemed aroused from his usual flat omdan gravity and indifference and fixed his earnest attention on a person in the crowd, who turned out to be the Rev. John Craig whose home was near Fort Defiance, six or seven miles north of Staunton. He told Captain Dickinson he would speak to that man for he looked like a man who had appeared to him in a dream as a teacher able to give valuable instruction. Thereupon they met and Selim at once expressed a desire to go home with the noted preacher, and he was kindly permitted to do so. As a matter of course Pastor Craig taught the Algerine stranger the truths of the Christian religion in order the young Mohammedan might come to the knowledge of the truth in Christ Jesus.

Mr. Craig's own personal destiny had been shaped by a dream he had in Ireland. While as a young preacher he was casting about as to the place where God would have him labor in the Gospel service, he carried it to God in prayer. He dreamed a very impressive dream and as a result he embarked for America, came from Pennsylvania with the Scotch-Irish settlers and when reaching Ft. Defiance, recognized it as the place he had seen in his dreams, settled there and spent his life. Many people in Pocahontas are the descendants of persons who were members of Mr. Craig's congregations in the Valley of Virginia, and saw Selim when he united with the Old Stone Church as a believer in our Lord and Savior and sat with him at the Communion Table, and

with him received the poured out wine, the emblems of Redeeming Love.

Mr. Craig found Selim a very apt learner in holy things, and he was aided in his efforts to teach him by Selim's knowledge of the Greek language, being thus able to read the New Testament in the original tongue. Selim soon professed conversion and Pastor Craig being fully satisfied of his intelligence and sincerity publicly baptized him in the Old Stone Church.

One touching evidence of his true conversion was his burning, anxious desire he had to return to his native land and tell his parents of the Savior he had found. His Virginia friends tried hard to persuade him not to go, but when Mr. Craig saw that nothing could avail he raised a sum of money for him and giving him a letter of introduction to the Hon. Robert Carter, of Westmoreland County, but at that time a resident of Williamsburg, started him across the Blue Ridge for Williamsburg. Mr. Carter received him very hospitably, and generously and obligingly did all that was asked of him. He furnished Selim more money, and secured a passage for him to England.

The next we hear of Selim is that he is back again in Virginia, partly bereft of his reason. In incident moments he made it understood that he had found his way to the old Algerine home, but his father disowned him and drove him away when he learned that his son had become a Christian and thus renounced the faith of his fathers. After spending some time at Captain Dickinson's, Selim tramped to the Warm Springs where he met a young preacher named Templeton who presented Selim with a Greek Testament which he read with much apparent delight. From the Warm Springs Selim made his way to Mr. Carter's in Westmoreland, and never returned to his Millboro home.

Selim awakened the sympathy of many influential persons and wherever he went found friends. Governor Page, while a member of Congress, had Selim go with him to Philadelphia, and employed the artist Peale to paint his likeness which is reproduced in Mead's History of the Old Churches, if my memory serves me correctly. From Philadelphia Selim went home with a South Carolina gentleman. Selim, it seems, was an occasional visitor to Prince Edward County where he learned to sing Watts Hymns, and thus when "merry would sing Psalms." For a season he was detained in the asylum for the insane at Williamsburg, and finally died at a private residence, where and at what date are not on record, so far as I am advised.

THE B & O ACCIDENT.

The worst railway accident which has occurred for years was that on the B. & O. near Connellsville, Pa., last week in which sixty-eight persons were killed and four injured.

The train was speeding at the rate of sixty miles an hour when it ran into a pile of timbers which had dropped from a freight train. The engine left the track on the upperside and stopped against the bank. The tender leaped over the engine. The baggage cars were overturned and the smoker, the forward passenger coach, leaped on top of the engine, and the steam killed the passengers.